



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting

Minutes

Location: FSD3 Board Room

Thursday, August 18, 2022

4:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Barbara Bryant, Julia Mims, Rutha Frieson, Paula Morris, Gloria Robinson, Almeta Fleming, Mattie Thomas, Jac’Kel Brown and Jason Kirby.

Absent: None.

Call to Order: Board Chair, Barbara Bryant called the August 18, 2022 board meeting of the Florence County School District Three Board of Trustees to order. In accordance with the S. C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-809d, as amended, the following have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting: Morning News, Lake City Shopper, WBTW, WPDE, & WMBF. This agenda is also posted on the Florence County School District Three website. A moment of silence was observed after which Board Chair Bryant led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Paula Morris made the motion to approve tonight’s agenda as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve tonight’s agenda as presented passed 9-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Gloria Robinson made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Rutha Frieson provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the consent agenda as presented passed 9-0. This consent agenda contained the following items: July 14, 2022 board minutes, the Certified Personnel Report, and Student Transfer Requests.

Public Participation: None.

Board Chair Report

Ms. Barbara Bryant, FSD3 Board Chair welcomed everyone attending the August 18, 2022 board meeting either personally or on Facebook. As always, the board’s quest is to keep everyone informed and involved about what is going on in Florence School District 3.

1. Report of any Meetings/Schools Attended

- On July 19 Virtual Town Hall Meeting led by Dr. Hickson
- On July 20 The new teacher luncheon at the Bean Market – Barbara Bryant, Mattie Thomas, Jac’Kel Brown and Rutha Frieson
- On August 8 The Social Emotional Learning Session along with the Parent Academy session at MSE– Barbara Bryant, Gloria Robinson and Almeta Fleming
- On August 16 The Mentor/Mentee Meet and Greet at LCHS – Barbara Bryant, Mattie Thomas and Rutha Frieson

- Today, August 18 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. – All board members had a refresher training with Gwen Hampton from the SCSBA.
 - Julia Mims attended the celebration of the Meeting Street Scholars. Pride to have 3 students who won that scholarship. Now that we, and the students, know more about this opportunity, we hope to have more scholars next year.
2. Request to Attend Any Meetings – Several board members will be attending the SCSBA School Law conference in Greenville August 27-28, 2022. Ms. Mattie Thomas asked to visit J. Paul Truluck Creative Arts & Magnet School.

Staff Reports

Finance Update – *Hope Gibson, Finance Director*

July Financials - The July financials are linked to your board agenda and on the FSD3 website. The 2022-2023 current budget is the final approved amount of \$33,477,137. The board approved use of the Fund Balance is \$240,389 for housing and safety and \$136,114 for projects in progress. The total amount board approved use of fund balance is \$376,503. Items also available for public viewing is the general fund by object code of revenue and expenditures as well as by function.

Human Resources Update – *Angelia Scott, HR & Federal Programs Director*

Dr. Hickson, in the absence of Mrs. Scott, shared the Vacancies in FSD3 as of this date:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Special Education-LCHS | 1 |
| School Counselor | 1 |
| School Librarian | 1 |
| Music (Band) | 3 |

Board Vice-Chair, Julia Mims, asked if there was any Band classes being taught this year. Dr. Hickson responded as of now No. Hopefully, Mr. Clark will eventually be able to do some possible after school classes. Board Member, Jac'Kel Brown, asked if any students had Band on their schedules. Dr. Hickson responded yes, but the scheduled were revised to have either Read 180 or another arts curriculum class.

Dr. Hickson then presented to board members a listing of all employment groups in the district. The summary is 228 Classified Staff, 266 Certified Staff for a total of 494 Total Full-time Employees. Not included in this count are the 27 Purchased Services employees and 10 I-tutor teachers (for virtual classes). This was for informational purposes.

Instructional Updates – *Mary Howard, Director of Early Childhood & Elementary Curriculum*

HALO/Gifted & Talented

Mrs. Howard started with the HALO/Gifted and Talented program. This is an expansion of the 3rd – 6th Gifted and Talented Program. High Achieving Learning Opportunities (HALO) program is off to a great start in the FSD3 elementary schools. MSE students worked on the skill of noticing and naming with the

use of the gradual release model of instruction. Mrs. Ericka Bell Bennett guided students who presented their findings and even used their detective skills to decide who the items belonged to. Students also discussed how the skills could be used within various disciplines and in everyday life.

After-school programs

FSD3 schools, LCECCA, MSE, JPT, and REMJH kicked off their after-school **21st Century** programs August 15, 2022. These programs will operate for 30 weeks.

The **Original Six** Foundation (06) after-school program provides students with hands-on, individual support from teachers to achieve their academic goals in a fun learning environment. This program operates Monday through Thursday with at least two certified teachers and aids students in the completion of homework assignments to reinforce school-day learning. The program expands into five schools located in Greenville, Florence, Marion and Colleton counties. Congratulations to our own JCL for being one of these schools!

Additional Academic Supports

FSD3 also has the **Academic Tutoring and Homework Center**. This provides free assistance with reading, math, writing, organizational skills, test-taking strategies, academic improvement and one-on-one & group sessions. This program is open to all FSD3 students. Hours are Monday thru Thursday 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

FSD3 is still partnered with Mathnasium and the Institute of Reading Development.

Spotlight

Arts celebrations are:

- LCECCA and JCL are part of the Reimagining and Accelerating Literacy through Arts integration grant in partnership with ArtsNOW. This grant was awarded to ARTS NOW and Florence 3 from the U. S. Department of Education.
- FSD3 was recently awarded the Distinguished Arts Program Grant from SC Department of Education. Special thanks to Mr. Cliff Gardner for his hard work in this award.

Digging Deeper – SESA is implementing a new attendance incentive to decrease chronic absenteeism and discipline. Classes are competing to earn THE GOLDEN SHOVEL, which is like their school's spirit stick since they are #diggingdeeper. The class with the best attendance gets to keep the "GOLDEN SHOVEL" for a month and get bragging rights.

Early Learning Opportunities

- First Steps Countdown to Kindergarten-Building relationships for success!
- ParentChild+ trying to reach children at an early age
- Waterford UPSTART is ready to begin it's at-home learning program

Reading is essential-we need our students reading fluently by the end of 1st grade. Our challenge is to ask parents to match the 30 minutes of uninterrupted reading at home. 30 for 30 Reading Challenge.

Save the Dates

August 22 – District Level Professional Development 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 1 – Parent Teacher Conferences (PTC)/Interims Issued

September 2 – Early Dismissal

Operations Update – *Kasey Feagin, Ed. S., Chief Operations Officer*

COVID #s

Mrs. Feagin began her report with COVID #s. These numbers reflected since the opening of school, August 1. As of now, FSD3 has 3% of District or School Staff testing positive for COVID and 3% of students testing positive. 1% of students are out with symptoms. A breakdown of these numbers were also given by school. Board member, Mattie Thomas, asked is there a plan to track monkeypox. Mrs. Feagin shared that DHEC sent out information to nurses this week concerning the monkeypox virus. Currently, FSD3 does not have any cases, but this will be monitored if any cases do arise.

Back to School Conference

This annual conference was held this past Saturday, August 13, 2022. There were approximately 85 participates. Topics such as attendance, SEL counseling, reading and high school requirements were all discussed at this event.

Textbook approval

The following textbooks were recommended for approval by the FSD3 Board of Trustees:

- Anatomy & Physiology – Essential of Human Anatomy and Physiology 13th edition-author: Elaine Marieb; Suzanne Keller bundle edition
- Environmental Science – Environmental Science 2nd Edition Savvas Learning CP and Environmental Science for AP, 3rd Edition-Author: Friedland Bedford, Freeman & Worth Publishing Group, LLC
- PE – Fitness for Life, 7th Edition (9-12)

Paula Morris made the motion to approve these textbooks as presented. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the textbooks recommended to the board passed 9-0.

Superintendent's Report- Laura Hickson, Ed. D., Superintendent

Legislative Updates – The following updates were shared with board members:

School Bus Driver Shortage – State officials at the SCDOE are trying to address the school bus driver shortage, therefore, by launching a Step up, SC campaign to include a “one-stop shop” website highlighting open positions statewide in each district. SC school districts are currently missing about 15% of the drivers they need. The SC DOE is also applying for a grant to receive electric buses. If this grant is successful, FSD3 could possibly acquire 8 new electric school buses.

Advocacy Meeting for the Pee Dee Region – this is regional advocacy meeting held in different areas for ‘Let’s Talk’ sessions within each region. The Pee Dee meeting will be October 5, 2022 beginning at 5:00 p.m. located at the Florence Center (aka Florence Civic Center). Registration deadline is Tuesday, September 27. If board members would like to attend, please let Shelia know.

New Proviso for Surplus Property – Proviso 1.113 (SDE: Surplus Property) directs school districts to follow a process for transferring, or offering for sale or lease, certain surplus property that has been vacant, unused, or unused for district student instruction for four years and not included in the school district’s capital improvement plan for future use. School districts must publish on their website by September 15, 2022, a list of all qualifying district property that is available for transfer to governmental subdivisions or state agencies or for sale or lease. FSD3 currently does not have any such properties.

District Updates – The following updates were shared with board members:

School Safety – In FSD3, the safety of our children and staff is our number one priority. We are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and staff. We must work together as parents, students, and staff to ensure the safety of all. Therefore, students will:

- Come to school with materials prepared to learn – nothing else but school materials.
- Focus on learning in class and not disrupt a class which interferes with teaching and learning.
- Not bring opened water bottles, drinks, and other containers to school or on school buses.
- Not carry weapons, knives, medications, pills, drugs, and other objects that could cause harm at the school.
- Keep cell phones on “off” mode and not visible during the school hours.
- Use appropriate language at school and on school buses. No profane language!
- Demonstrate respect and not bully others.

Threats, fights, bullying, and assaults will not be tolerated and will result in a hearing and possible removal from school.

Safety Procedures for Middle and High School Athletics

- All spectators are expected to be seated in the bleachers. Loitering under the bleachers, on the handicapped access ramp, or in the concrete area near the concession stand is not allowed. Repeat violators must leave the game.
- Sportsmanship will be emphasized. Fans who verbally abuse officials or players will be asked to leave.
- Bookbags are prohibited. All bags must be clear.
- Any form of horseplay, running, flipping or confrontations, physical or verbal, will result in removal from the premises. Smoking/vaping inside the stadium will result in removal from the premises.
- Any form of gang display, such as clothing, hand gestures or verbal calls, will result in removal from the premises.
- Spectators are expected to leave the stadium promptly after the game.
- Behavior at athletic events can also carry school discipline consequences and affect a student’s future attendance.
- There will be no refunds given to individuals removed from the premises.

Enrollment figures for SY 2022-2023

As of 8/17/2022, FSD3 has 2851 students 5K thru 12th grade and 3002 students 3K thru 12th grade. This is compared to last year’s total of 3077 students.

Important Events & Dates

- Saturday, August 27 – Sunday, August 28 – the SCSBA School Law Conference in Greenville
- Thursday, September 8, 2022 – SEL & Parent Academy at Olanta Magnet School at 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, September 12, 2022 – SEL & Parent Academy at Olanta Magnet School at 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 5, 2022 – SCSBA Advocacy Meeting for the Pee Dee Region, Florence

Executive Session: Julia Mims made the motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel regarding hiring, termination, resignation or potential legal matters. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for

this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter into executive session passed 9-0.

Exit Executive Session – Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit executive session. Julia Mims provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit executive session and enter into public session passed 9-0

PUBLIC SESSION

Action from Executive Session:

No action was needed from executive session.

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees, Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Jason Kirby provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn passed 9-0.

Date approved

Barbara Bryant, Chair

Shelia Knotts, Recording Clerk

Rutha Frieson, Secretary